

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 8, 9, and 11 are canceled.

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 7 are pending.

**II. Claims 8, 9, and 11
Were not "New Issues"**

Claims 8 and 9 refer to nucleic acid probes that are "complementary to SEQ ID NO: 12 or a fragment thereof" and does not relate to "primers outside the specific mutation". The examiner also states "it does not appear that the specification supports amplification of the entire FUT1 gene". To the contrary, Table 1 of the specification lists several FUT1 primers used for amplification and their relative positions. The specification as filed also discloses several PCR reactions to amplify the FUT1 gene. In addition, given the FUT1 gene sequence, primer sequences, and the position of the mutation (307) in the specification, a skilled artisan can readily design appropriate amplification and restriction tests. However, to move this case toward allowance, claims 8, 9 and 11 are cancelled.

III. Summary

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 21, 2004, applicant cancels claims 8, 9 and 11. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 7 should now be allowable.

No fees are believed due at this time, however, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to deposit account number 12-0913 with reference to our attorney docket number (21459/91513).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice O. Martin".

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